

## Appendix A. Definitions

**Anadromous Salmonids** – Chum, sockeye, Chinook and Coho salmon, and steelhead and cutthroat trout that are members of the family Salmonidae and are listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered by a state or federal authority.

**Basin** – a topographical entity within which all the surface water draining to a single point falls; some of the surface water may have come from groundwater fed by geological strata outside the basin.

**Cowardin Class** – the wetland classification according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, Cowardin et al., 1979. The two primary Cowardin systems occurring in Damascus are:

- **palustrine** - freshwater (less than 0.5 parts per thousand ocean-derived salts) area dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses, or lichens. They can be non-tidal or tidal. Palustrine also includes wetlands lacking this vegetation, but having the following characteristics: (1) area less than 20 acres; (2) no active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline; (3) water depth in the deepest part is less than 6.6 feet at low water.
- **riverine** - freshwater (less than 0.5 parts per thousand ocean-derived salts) areas that are contained within a channel and which are not dominated by trees, shrubs, and persistent emergents (for example, rivers and streams).

**Emergent** – a plant that grows rooted in shallow water, the bulk of which emerges from the water and stands vertically. Usually applied to non-woody vegetation.

**Emergent Wetland** – a subclass of palustrine system (see Cowardin Class above), a wetland characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes, excluding mosses and lichens.

**Enhancement** – an improvement in the functions and values of an existing wetland, forest, or other natural resource.

**Exotic species** – -plants that are not indigenous to the Pacific Northwest (see invasive species).

**Field Verification** – to walk over and/or visually check an area, for example, to make a wetland determination and map wetlands (this may or may not include collecting sample plot data).

**Fish habitat** – those areas upon which fish depend in order to meet their requirements for spawning, rearing, food supply, and migration.

**Floodplain** – river valley apart from the river channel which is inundated only in a flood event, attenuating the flood discharge. The 100-year floodplain shows the flood with a 100-year recurrence interval.

**Forested Wetland** – a subclass of palustrine system (see Cowardin Class above), a wetland characterized by woody vegetation that is six meters (20 feet) tall or taller.

**Geographic Information System (GIS)** – a system of hardware, software and data storage that allows for the analysis and display of information that has been geographically referenced.

**Global Positioning System (GPS)** – is a navigation satellite system transmitting signals that allow GPS receivers to determine the receiver's location, speed and direction. Its primary use for the Damascus inventory is to provide accurate field position data for use in GIS (see above) to verify the location of natural features such as landslide areas, wetlands and streams.

**Goal 5** – Statewide Planning Goal (OAR Chapter 660, Division 23) intended to protect natural resources and conserve scenic and historic areas and open spaces.

**Goal 5 Inventory** – a survey, map, or description of one or more resource sites that is prepared by a local government, state or federal agency, private citizen, or other organization and that includes information about the resource values and features associated with such sites.

**Growing season** – the portion of the year when soil temperatures are above biologic zero at 50 cm (19.7").

**Herbaceous** – with the characteristics of an herb; a plant with no persistent woody stem above ground.

**Hydric soil** – a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.

**Hydrogeomorphic Method** or **HGM** – a scientific method of wetland classification and functional assessment based on a wetland's location in the landscape and the sources and duration of water flow. The HGM approach identifies the wetland classes present in each region, defines the functions that each class of wetlands performs, and establishes reference sites to define the range of functioning of each wetland class. **HGM class** or **subclass** means the hydrogeomorphic classification of the wetland based upon its landscape position and hydrology characteristics, according to the HGM key developed by the Division of State Lands.

**Hydrology** – The properties, distribution, and circulation of water.

**Hydrophyte** – Any plant growing in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content.

**Hydrophytic vegetation** – See hydrophyte.

**Invasive species** – Those species which become established easily in disturbed conditions, reproduce readily, and often establish monocultures. Most invasive plants are non-native species. Examples of common invasive species in Damascus are: Himalayan blackberry, English ivy, and reed canarygrass.

**Indicator** – The soil, vegetation, and hydrology characteristics or other field evidence that indicate that wetlands are present.

**Indigenous Anadromous Salmonids** – Chum, sockeye, Chinook and Coho salmon, and steelhead and cutthroat trout that are members of the family Salmonidae and are listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered by a state or federal authority.

**Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR)** is an optical remote sensing technology which measures properties of scattered light to find range and/or other information of a distant target. Its primary use for the Damascus inventory is to map landforms and allow detailed assessment of potential landslide hazards, wetlands and streams.

**Local Wetlands Inventory (LWI)** – A collection of maps and information about wetlands throughout a local community that provides a planning tool for balancing the protection of wetland functions with other community needs. LWIs satisfy the requirements for wetland inventories under Statewide Planning Goal 5 (Natural Resources). Once approved, LWIs become part of the Statewide Wetlands Inventory. Mapped LWI wetland boundaries are generally accurate to within 25 feet, but may be less in areas that could not be field verified. A wetland boundary delineation may be needed to determine whether regulations apply to a particular development proposal.

**Locally Significant Wetlands (LSW)** – Those wetland sites that provide functions or exhibit characteristics that are pertinent to community planning decisions made at a local scale, for example, within a UGB. These wetland sites shall be identified by local governments according to the criteria and procedures in sections 141-086-0340 and 141-086-0350.

**Native Plant Community** – A recognized assemblage of plant species indigenous to Oregon. All such wetland plant communities are listed in the most recent version of Classification and Catalog of Native Wetland Plant Communities in Oregon (Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center).

**Offsite Determination** – A wetland determination conducted without field verification using NWI maps, soils maps, and aerial photographs.

**Ordinary high-water mark** – The line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as: a clear, natural line impressed on the bank; changes in the character of soil or vegetation; shelving; or the presence of a line of litter or debris.

**Oregon Freshwater Wetland Assessment Methodology (OFWAM)** – The method adopted by the State to evaluate and rate the relative quality of a wetland by measuring its

condition and its capacity to perform certain functions, including wildlife habitat, fish habitat, water quality, and hydrologic control. The results of the OFWAM rating is used as a basis for determination of wetland significance.

**OFWAM Evaluation Descriptor** – a summary statement describing whether the wetland is (1) intact, (2) impacted or degraded, or (3) function is lost or not present.

**Rare Plant Community** – Relictual, uncommon or unique in Oregon, determined by number of occurrences and threats following national heritage program criteria (i.e., rarity ranking of G1-G3 or S1-S3).

**Reach** – A length of channel with uniform characteristics.

**Restoration** – Restoration is the process of repairing damage to the diversity and dynamics of ecosystems. Ecological restoration is the process of returning an ecosystem as closely as possible to predisturbance conditions and functions.

**Riparian area** – The area adjacent to a river, lake, or stream, consisting of the area of transition from an aquatic ecosystem to a terrestrial ecosystem.

**Riparian corridor** – A Goal 5 resource that includes the water areas, fish habitat, adjacent riparian areas, and wetlands within the riparian area boundary.

**Riparian corridor boundary** – An imaginary line that is a certain distance upland from the top bank.

**Sample Plot** – A specific area on the ground where soils, vegetation and hydrology data are recorded on a field data form in order to make a wetland determination.

**Scrub-shrub Wetland** – A subclass of palustrine system (see Cowardin Class above), areas dominated by woody vegetation less than 6 meters (20 feet) tall. The species include tree shrubs, young trees, and trees or shrubs that are stunted because of environmental conditions.

**Significance determination** – The determination of significance of a Goal 5 resource is based on:

- (a) The quality, quantity, and location information;
- (b) Supplemental or superseding significance criteria set out in OAR 660-023-0090 through 660-023-0230; and
- (c) Any additional criteria adopted by the local government, provided these criteria do not conflict with the requirements of OAR 660-023-0090 through 660-023-0230.

**Stream** – A channel such as a river or creek that carries flowing surface water, including perennial streams and intermittent streams with defined channels, and excluding man-made irrigation channels.

**Top of bank** – Has the same meaning as “bankfull stage” defined in OAR 141-085-0010(2). The stage or elevation at which water overflows the natural banks of streams or other waters of this state and begins to inundate the upland. In the absence of physical evidence, the two-year recurrence interval flood elevation may be used to approximate the bankfull stage

**Wetland** – an area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

**Wetland Assessment or Functional Assessment** – An evaluation and rating of the relative quality of a wetland by measuring its condition and its capacity to perform certain functions.

**Wetland Boundary** – A line marked on a map that identifies the approximate wetland/non-wetland boundary.

**Wetland Condition** – The integrity of a wetland’s physical and biological structure, which determines the wetland’s ability to perform specific functions, as well as its resilience and enhancement opportunities.

**Wetland Delineation** – A determination of wetland presence that includes marking the wetland boundaries on the ground and/or on a detailed map prepared by professional land survey or similar accurate methods.

**Wetland Delineation Manual or 1987 Manual** – Provides technical guidelines and methods to determine whether an area is a wetland for purposes of Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The objective of the Act is to maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the United States.

**Wetland Determination** – Identification of an area as wetland or non-wetland.

**Wetland Function** – Characteristic action or behavior associated with a wetland that contributes to a larger ecological condition such as wildlife habitat, fish habitat, water quality, and/or flood control.

**Wetland hydrology** – The total of all wetness characteristics in areas that are inundated or have saturated soils for a sufficient duration to support hydrophytic vegetation.

**Wetland Indicator Status** – Categories of plant species based upon the estimated probabilities (expressed as a frequency of occurrence) of a species occurring in a wetland or non-wetland. Wetland indicator status (WIS) includes the following:

- Obligate (OBL): species that almost always occur in wetlands under natural conditions (estimated probability >99%).
- Facultative wetland (FACW): species that usually occur in wetlands (estimated probability 67 to 99%), but are occasionally found in non-wetlands.

- Facultative (FAC): Species that are equally likely to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands (estimated probability 34 to 66%).
- Facultative upland (FACU): species that usually occur in non-wetlands (estimated probability 67 to 99%), but are occasionally found in wetlands.
- Upland (UPL): species that almost always occur in non-wetlands under normal conditions (estimated probability >99%).
- Not listed (NL): species that are not listed and are presumed to be upland species.
- No indicator status (NI): species that have not yet been evaluated.

A (+) or (-) following the WIS signifies a greater or lesser likelihood of being found in wetland condition.

**Wetland Mosaic** – A complex of several wetlands smaller than one-half (0.50) acres in size each that are interspersed between areas of non-wetland.

**Wildlife Habitat** – an area upon which wildlife depend in order to meet their requirements for food, water, shelter, and reproduction.